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Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL CHOCOLATES

JAPAN HERE SOON BUT WE HAVE NO TEAM TO FIELD

— By PAUL DEAN —

Japan now seems certain to play Australia in a full international on March 30, in Sydney.

The match is likely to be postponed by one week. held at the Sports Ground.

After this the Japanese will play two more matches — in Melbourne on Sunday, March 31, and in Brisbane on April 3.

It is reported that Japan will receive \$4,000 a match but must find their own air fares.

They will be on their way back from Mexico.

In order to find a suitable date for the match, the first first match with Japan.

competition round of the NSW premiership will be many brave words spoken

about keeping this team together.

Actually, the premiership is now likely to start with the second round — and the first will be played later in the season.

Lack of time will certainly embarrass the ASF in its preparations — as usual. The national team hasn't had one training run together since their return from Asia — and will be lucky to meet Adelaide.

The only ones with serious chance of selection are Kelly, Richards (Qld), Romanowicz,

Perin, De Lyster and Pantelis (Adelaide) and Lloyd (Newcastle).

The Australian team is expected to be announced on Sunday, March 24.

There is no time for selectors and subcommittees to once again zigzag across the breadth and width of Australia — and no need either.

This travel-mania of the ASF is assuming comic proportions and if unchecked, could straight away make the Japanese tour a financial risk.



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Stop Press

The Victorian Federation decided on Monday night it will definitely participate in the 1968 Australia Cup. The top six clubs of 1967 — Melbourne, Juventus, Hellas, Croatia, JUST and Hakoah — will take part.

Not a wild, tribal dance as it may appear, but Prague goalie King and the Canterbury duo of Hood and Clarke jumping, with outstretched arms, for an invisible ball at Wentworth Park last Sunday.

Monday in Melbourne

DRAW LIKELY IN INTERSTATE TIE

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Victoria and NSW will meet for the 30th time in Melbourne on Monday.

The history of interstate matches between the leading two Australian States goes back to 1883 when they twice drew 2-2 at East Melbourne and South Melbourne.

It's interesting to note that NSW and Victoria had already met eight times before the turn of the century.

In recent years, however, the two States have shunned each other and the last time they met was in Sydney on Anzac Day 1963, when NSW won 3-2 in an Australian interstate championship match.

NSW and Victoria have won 12 times each, with five games drawn.

Since the inception of the Australian Federation, however, NSW have the better record, having won three of the four matches played since 1962.

Monday's match will see the cream of Australian soccer in action.

With the exception of Brian Lincoln, every NSW player is a full Australian "A" international.

Victoria's likely team in-

cludes seven full Australian internationals and a world-famous Czechoslovakian international — goalkeeper Schroif.

Twelve members of the triumphant Australian team which won the Saigon Tournament last November — Keith, Van Alphen, Micic, McColl, Abonyi, Vojtek, Corry, Ackerley, Schaefer, Westwater, Warren and Baartz — will be reunited on the field.

McMeehan, Scheinflug, Blue and Blitz have also played for Australia overseas — they were in the 1965 World Cup squad — and Marnoch gained "A" caps against Scotland last season.

The outcome of the match is hard to predict because this will be a real "needle" tie with much sought-after national supremacy at stake.

The NSW team has trained more thoroughly and consistently than Victoria, whose preparation was curtailed by the intensive heat which disrupted

much of Victorian sport. The Victorian squad only trained four times since it was picked a month ago.

Some NSW players, however, will be under a severe handicap because Pan Hellenic and St. George-Budapest, who between them provide six players to the squad, will have played a vital Ampol Cup match only 24 hours before.

A drawn match in Melbourne on Monday would come as no surprise, but NSW get our nod for the return match in Sydney on Sunday, March 24.

The likely line-ups:
Victoria: Schroif; Keith, High; Sanchez, Van Alphen, Micic; McColl, Abonyi, Vojtek, J. McKay, McMeehan.

NSW: Corry; Lincoln, Ackerley; Schaefer, Marnoch, Scheinflug; Blue, Westwater, Warren, Baartz, Blitz.

Eaton, Johnston, Yaager and Fernandez will also travel to Melbourne with the NSW team as reserves.

Sutherland's junior fame will spread

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

March 18 is the closing date for entries to the Sutherland Shire Football Association competitions.

Association official, Ken Chipman, expects over 5,000 boys to take part in the district competitions this year, a rise of over 10 per cent on 1967.

Nineteen clubs from all parts of the Shire will take part in the competitions.

Two new grounds are available at Shell Point, but still the ground position remains critical.

Rovers club, with 18 teams, will share Loftus Oval with the Protestant Churches' Association.

Chipman stated that Sutherland wishes to give a fair go to all Associations and would do so even though it means trying to cater for 18 teams on one ground every second week.

Sutherland Association has done its best to press the Shire Council to bring new grounds into operation as quickly as possible, but grounds do not become available quickly enough.

Sutherland district will institute combined competitions based on team merit for all players from 17 years upwards.

This will replace separate under-18, 21 and A grade competitions.

The aim is to place teams on their ability, and success will depend on the efficiency of the grading.

If three divisions are filled as anticipated, the system should get off to a fine start.

Under-16 would be the last group graded on age.

Granville District Football Association secretary, Mrs. N. Packer expects that the area will increase to over 300 teams by the time entries close on March 9.

Twenty-six clubs have already entered, and Granville RSL will have juniors for the first time.

The playing field position is well settled.

Bert Packer is again president of the Association, aided by Keith Guthrie, Senior V.P., E. Roper, Junior V.P., Keith Dwyer Competition Secretary, Mrs. Roper, Honorary Treasurer and Russ Jones, Registrar.

The Canterbury Association has appointed Tom Sanders as Honorary Secretary to succeed the late Bill Brackenbury.

Sanders already has a

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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

Pan Hellenic defeated Juventus 3-2 at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground last Sunday. They were invited by the Moomba Festival Committee and were accorded VIP treatment during their brief stay in Melbourne. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne presented Pan Hellenic with a magnificent trophy for their victory. Pan Hellenic's goals were scored by Karyannis (2) and Laraman.

JAN HOLLEMAN is the name of the latest player that literally walked in to Hakoah. The 21-year-old Dutchman, a left winger, played with the well-known amateur club of The Hague, VUC.

DUNCAN MCKAY, the Scottish-born star of Croatia-Melbourne, is headed for Sydney. A former "A" international, he would be a tremendous asset, especially as a player-coach.

PADDY BONHAM, Croatia's former Irish fullback, has rejoined his Irish club, Shelbourne. Bonham is likely to move to the United States soon to play in Boston.

DICK ROBINSON, the Corinthians fullback, has been placed on the free transfer list. He is available to join any club. Any club interested to sign this more than useful defender can contact him on 663-5113.

At St. George, the District Association president, BERT GARDINER, is being showered with congratulations on all sides. Bert and his crew in the "Endeavour 11" have been selected to represent Australia at Cowes next July in the 4 footer sailing events. The series is known as the Captain Cook Series. Off Shore Yacht Racing Championship.

Players from PRAGUE's three grades will have a picnic on Sunday at Stan Slavik's Forest Restaurant at Leppington. Supporters and friends of the club are welcome to join in the outing.

BRIAN REED, Lane Cove's regular goalkeeper who was off with injury for most of last season, has jarred his right leg again in a friendly against Enmore at the weekend. He is sure to be out for the bigger part of this season.

MELITA EAGLES were beaten 1-0 (penalty) at the weekend by Second Division club Sutherland at Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda.

Intending women players and ladies' soccer teams are advised to contact the following officials for information in regard to the future activities of the LADIES' SOCCER ASSOCIATION: K. Smeeby (72-5074), Miss Sue Forster (70-4136), Mrs. J. Gerrisch (644-3268) and L. Shilling (70-8034). More players are needed and the Association feels that contact with any of the above-mentioned will be to the advantage of interested parties.

JOHN NUELL, the talented goalkeeper, has been coaxed out of retirement and will resume training this week. South Coast coach Jim Kelly hopes to have him fit for the start of the competition.

ROSS WARREN no longer coaches Arncliffe Scots. The former St. George fullback will coach and manage Saints' third grade side this season.

Good news at the seaside: Manly's GRAHAM RESERVE is finally being made into a fenced off enclosure. The playing surface is already said to be the best in Sydney.

It's rumored that JOHN WATKISS and DAVE KEDDIE will make their debut for Hakoah together, on Saturday.

Pan Hellenic expect their Greek forward, ACHILLES SAVIDIS, to arrive next week at the latest — in time for the Ampol Cup final, they hope...

PRAGUE rattled in nine goals last Sunday — without regulars Zeman, Molnar, Armytage and Moulson.

APIA coach Mike Mazzina is due back next week — and he is expected to bring with him at least two players from Argentina: forward SANTORO and stopper TESCO, both Italian-born.

LAURIE HEGYES conducts free coaching classes every Monday night at Soccer House, Mortdale, for St. George junior coaches.

MANLY are still not sure when they receive Immigration permits for their two New Guinea hopefuls, Dobbin and Hobart.

RON HAWKSHAW, the former APIA fullback, has taken the reins of Malta United Soccer Club, the Adelaide Second Division side which is a hot candidate for promotion this season. Under his coaching, Malta United finished third in the competition last season and won the Jaxen Cup and the Broken Hill Trophy. This season Malta United celebrate their tenth anniversary.

Polonia have placed star forward, RICHARD KRAWIARZ, on a \$200 good behavior bond for alleged indiscretions. Polonia also suspended goalie Drewniak for not turning up last Friday pending an investigation.

Leading amateur club, BELMORE, is still in need of players for their Inter-Suburban League teams. Retirements and transfers have left the club short of play-

ers for the forthcoming season. Good class players are required to alleviate this position. Interested persons may obtain full details from the club secretary, Mr. Hulett, on 78-4384.

St. George-Budapest will entertain the Sydney PRESS at a dinner at the club next Tuesday.

Prague's reserve team defeated Second Division club HORNSBY-NORTH END 3-2 last weekend. All three goals were scored by promising young forward, Wilcox. Prague's third graders beat Hornsby's second grade XI 2-0 in the early match.

Big news for ST. GEORGE. Special events for junior players to show their skill will be held at McCarthy Reserve, Bay Street, Rockdale on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. An afternoon newspaper is sponsoring the events, and donating 24 balls for young players who excel on the day. All players are welcome. Leading members of the St. George-Budapest first team will demonstrate in individual skills and team plays.

NOEL TELFER has become engaged to Miss Benette Fraser. They plan to marry in December.

POLONA-NORTH SIDE require talented junior goalkeepers. Interested custodians should ring the secretary on 71-3576.

EASTSIDE-MTK plays North Sydney Inter in a trial on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Nield Park, Henley Marine Drive, Drummoyne. Eastside scored a 5-2 win over Bankstown Thistle last week, with former Canberra Croatia player, Steve Feher, starring at centre-forward and scoring one goal with Karsay (2), Kaposi and Forgacs sharing the others.

NICK PETROU, the young Yugal goalkeeper, was sent off during the South Coast v. Yugal match at Woonona last Sunday. Petrou, who was continuously harassed by the South Coast forwards, was sent off when he retaliated and hit an onrushing opponent. Last Tuesday he coped a two-match suspension — a very harsh penalty.

HAVE YOU A CLUB PROGRAM?

If you do, please send us a copy every time it's published.

With the co-operation of the clubs, we plan to review them and regularly re-print excerpts from them.

It can be a weekly programme, newspaper or news-sheet published weekly, fortnightly or monthly — it's still welcome.

Send it to The Editor, Box 5061, GPO, Sydney, 2001.

BAD CUP GATES DEPRESS CLUBS

Clubs must have adequate "private means" if they are to survive until at least the start of the season proper.

The way the Ampol Cup crowds keep vanishing, any club expecting revenue from that source must be out of its mind.

So far, for the first four rounds, clubs received as their share a total of \$494 each.

This represents the princely sum of \$123 per round.

While Sunday attendances are bearable, the black Fridays at the Showground are proving catastrophic.

The venue itself is so utterly unpleasant that it must keep a few thousand away regularly.

But it's not a cheap ground; the rent, the staff and the

minimum guarantees, say \$20 or \$30 for a win.

But this is far from being a club's only expense; they also have to pay their reserves, coaches, laundry bills, ground rentals for training, the cost of new strips, boots, balls, stationary, etc.

How all that can be squeezed into \$123 weekly defies imagination.

Maybe the two clubs eventually reaching the final will shape better?

Hardly. They have almost certainly promised their players all the prize money they win while the gate taking at the final is most unlikely to offset the poor attendances of the earlier rounds. — P.D.

Editorial**Courting Disaster**

By even contemplating to increase admission charges to First Division premiership matches, the NSW Federation shows suicidal tendencies.

Crowds at this year's Ampol Cup indicate a deepening of last year's slump; the two doubleheaders last weekend attracted just over 4,000 spectators.

It is not sound business practice to increase your prices when sales are down.

Instead, the Federation should think hard how to attract more people to the matches.

Increasing the admission charge is most unlikely to be the solution.

We feel that these three steps may succeed:

- Leave the admission charges unchanged.
- Admit ALL women and children free.
- Induce the clubs to promote their games — put on marching girls, bands or displays at half-time.

Women may be the key to our problem. An increasing number of them are sick and tired of being left home every weekend while their husband trots off to soccer.

On the other hand, many working men can ill afford to take the wife and children and outlay some \$2 or more on this type of entertainment.

We must offer women the inducement of free admission if we want to recover their lost husbands or boy friends.

With our attendances sliding at an alarming rate, only drastic steps have a chance of success.

Increasing the charges from 40c. to 50c. and charging women the same rate will have nothing but catastrophic results.

Aiming for business?**Why don't we have a national body?**

The situation is tragic but not serious — these famous words once applied to French politics perfectly describe the incredible muddle that goes under the name of Australian Soccer Federation.

If ever an organisation carried in its veins all the microbes that would eventually destroy it, it was the ASF.

Clumsily built and incompetently managed, the ASF is the prime cause of soccer's stagnation throughout Australia.

Instead of uniting the States, by its very nature it further divides them; instead of setting a firm, intelligent long-range policy, it busies itself — again incompetently — with nothing else but tours.

Next week in a special article Paul Dean will reveal just what the ASF is — and also what it should be.

By special arrangement, his article will appear not only in this newspaper but also in the pages of our friendly rivals, "Soccer News" of Melbourne.

For the good of the game, we combined all our resources in an 11th hour attempt to rid Australian soccer of its bungling maladministration.

More method could pay off for P. Hell.

— By PAUL DEAN —

Some of our soccer pundits are absolutely certain that this year will belong to Pan Hellenic, finally reaching all the triumph and glory they have been seeking since 1960.

I am not so sure. And not because I underrate Pan Hellenic for a moment.

Their three wins in a row in the Ampol Cup which generated such press interest were against mediocre opponents.

Their first real test of strength came against Ha-koh — and Pan Hellenic went down without a murmur.

Why? I am convinced that it was their lack of finesse or method that led to their undoing — and may again prevent them from getting to the very top.

Many people are surprised that almost regardless of the players in the team, Pan Hellenic play the same brand of soccer year after year.

Sure, today's team is vastly different from the 1961 one — yet the style is the same.

I have a suspicion that the inherent reason for this lies in the make-up of the Pan Hellenic officials and supporters who seem to expect, demand and finally receive this strange version of "rush-football".

The speed, the zest and the boundless enthusiasm which characterise Pan Hellenic's style may at first glance appear to be their greatest asset — but it is also their most serious weakness.

To play precision football at that speed is almost impossible; there is no room for a thinking type of ball-player.

At times they manage to run their opponents off their feet, when the ball is rolling for them, but at other times they resemble a bunch of schoolboys all wildly chasing every half chance.

Blitz is the only exception and he fits into this team like a ballerina in a gridiron team.

But Blitz alone cannot slow down nine others and if he doesn't wish to appear lazy or indolent, he must also take up the rush and swim with the mob.

Westwater, probably regarded by Pan Hellenic fans as their greatest talent, is actually in my eyes the chief culprit.

Not fully understanding the role of a midfield player, he makes 30- or 40-yard sprints WITH the ball, crowding his forwards and opening up his own defence.

This looks dramatic, even heroic — but it isn't intelligent football.

Much the same can be said about the other key players — Smith, McCulloch, Omeros — who rely too much on individual bravado instead of correct, precise interpassing.

Talentwise Pan Hellenic are no worse off than many of their rivals.

Clarke in goal is safe and steady. Johnston, now that he is discarding his over-tough methods, can become Sydney's best overlapping right fullback.

Mallard at stopper improves with every game and Cole, once fit, will have a fight on

his hands to squeeze back into the team.

Hignett is a useful, reliable defender very much like Hillsdon.

Westwater, despite his undoubtedly ability, is not half as useful to his team as he could be.

If he did not want to assume the role of defender, midfield man, attacker, corner kicker and thrower-in all at once, thus dissipating his energy, he COULD become Mr. Pan Hellenic; just yet, he isn't.

The forward line can be aggressive and explosive — when it clicks; tame and impotent, when it doesn't.

Laraman and Karyannis, the two chief strikers, are incredibly erratic; McCulloch is basically a midfielder.

I have a feeling that Blitz and even Smith could be much more useful inside, scheming and creating chances while Karyannis could find his true metier on the wing.

This is a team that is really anxious to do well — possibly over-anxious at that.

With more precision and finesse and better pacing they could become the team their very large, loyal band of supporters yearn for.

Whether they can change their style remains to be seen.

...OR SO THEY SAY

"Roger Bamforth of Balgownie, climbs higher than three 'Fuzzy Wuzzy' defenders in the NSW v. Papua-New Guinea match at Corrimal."

(Photo caption, Sun, Feb. 28).

"A Sydney representative soccer team last night played a 2-2 draw with visiting Papua-New Guinea side at Redfern Oval."

(Telegraph, Feb. 29).

"If the Papua-New Guinea boys can lick a very strong Sydney team under the Redfern Oval lights — kick-off 8.15 — they'll be welcomed like heroes when they return to their own land."

(Sun, Feb. 28).

"Unfortunately, Naples' good form in the Italian League, in which they are second to AC Milan, has caused Italy's selectors to nominate nearly half of the Naples side for international duty. Five Naples players are in Italy's Nations' Cup squad. They are Zoff (goalkeeper), Nardin (right-back), Bianchi (left-half), Juliano (outside-left) and Altafini (centre-forward)."

(Sun, Feb. 27).

"It looks as though the team's (St. George) discipline had become somewhat lax. And this very discipline was the mainspring of so many triumphs in the past."

(Hungarian "Magyar Elet", March 2).

"Why is Australia the only country in the world which is trying to learn the game and make money out of it at the same time?"

(Melbourne Soccer-Tennis News, Feb. 23).

"A full Japanese soccer team will make a hit and run three match tour of Australia at the end of this month. The news of the tour was announced to the Mirror's Tokyo correspondent".

(Mirror, March 4).

"Canterbury soccer team, recently criticised for relying too much on Greek imports, was led a dance that Zorba never dreamed of at Wentworth Park yesterday. All that was missing was Miss Melina Mercouri lamenting 'Never on Sunday' by way of background music!"

(Sun, March 4).

"Last week-end the Australian Soccer Federation's Moomba Circus was in session for its annual meeting in Brisbane. What did it cost? A cool \$3,000 for the two-day performance."

(Melbourne Soccer-Tennis News, Feb. 23).

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Dettmar Cramer is in Australia

ASF secretary Ian McAndrew late last week flew to Perth to welcome to Australia FIFA coach Dettmar Cramer, scheduled to spend a month here.

The first to suggest to invite Cramer to Australia was Max Garrett, an executive of Western Suburbs, who had met the little German coach in Tokyo in 1964.

Since then, believing in the advantages such a visit could have for Australian soccer, we have been clamoring for his invitation ceaselessly.

Finally, late last year the ASF woke up and did invite Cramer.

Cramer, who was previously assistant national coach of West Germany is a member of the Technical Panel of Lecturers of FIFA.

Cramer will undertake an extensive tour of Australia to conduct lecture courses and demonstration classes

in conjunction with the State branches of the Australian Federation of Soccer Coaches.

His itinerary is:

Perth: March 1-March 4.
Adelaide: March 5-March 7.
Hobart: March 8-March 10.
Melbourne: March 11-March 15.
Canberra: March 16-March 17.
Sydney: March 18-March 22.
Newcastle: March 23-March 26.
Brisbane: March 27-March 30.

For the past 15 months Cramer has been touring all Asian nations with FIFA assistance.

His courses in Asia have been directed at the establishment, preparation, training and coaching of national teams for international matches.

In addition to meeting national and State squads, arrangements are being made for Cramer, by State Federations, to have him visit educational establishments, such as universities, colleges and schools.

PRAGUE AND HAKOAH ASSURED OF SEMI BERTHS

Prague and Hakoah assured themselves of a berth in the semifinals last weekend, Prague scoring a record Ampol Cup 9-1 win over Canterbury in the process.

St. George-Budapest, by Manly. virtue of their 3-0 win over Total attendance last week hapless South Coast, kept end for the two double-heads their semifinal hopes alive, ers was a pitiful 4,400. as did Croatia, victors over Last weekend's reports:

Last Friday:

Saints' revival

Hakoah retained their unbeaten Ampol Cup record and St. George-Budapest returned to the winning list last Friday night.

Both scored easy wins against the only two teams which still haven't scored a goal this season.

The crowd of 1,642 was the smallest of the series — a shocking indictment on the drawing power of the Showground, the standard of Sydney soccer and the future of the Ampol Cup, which obviously no longer attracts the soccer follower.

St. George v. SCU 3-0

A revitalized St. George was in command from start to finish and never looked in danger of defeat.

Saints went into attack straight from the kick-off and it was no surprise to see them lead 2-0 after 10 minutes.

What was most pleasing, however, was the return to form of skipper, Johnny Warren, who made his presence felt by scoring the first two goals in dashing style.

The form of young wingers, McCue and Burton, was very encouraging.

Burton, in particular, showed plenty of class and should have clinched a regular berth in the first team.

The absence of Galambos and Schauman instead of weakening Saints' attack, made it faster, more determined and purposeful.

In sharp contrast to previous games, every forward pulled his weight and, as a result, the attack always looked dangerous.

If the match never reached great heights, it wasn't St. George's fault.

South Coast gave an appalling display which stamped them as the weakest NSW team at this stage.

They kicked aimlessly all over the field and incurred the wrath of the tiny crowd with over-robust tactics.

Actually the only time a South Coast player was noticed throughout the 70 minutes was when he felled an opponent with a vigorous tackle.

Kelly was a big disappointment: he is obviously short of match-play, as was Jim Harris, and neither held a firm grip on the midfield as in their heyday.

With the exception of a couple of promising runs by newcomer McGarry, United's forward-line was non-existent.

St. George fully deserved their win: they mounted some clever attacks and, even if Cliss' goal looked suspiciously off-side, they were clearly a three-goal better side.

St. George: Haffey (Hoppins); Taylor, Hillary; Schaefer, Morgan, Zuckerman; Burton, Cliss, Warren, Fernandez, McCue.

South Coast: Ramage; Carr, Ringland; Kelly, Harris, Davies; Robbards, Alston, McGarry, Tolson, Harrison.

Scorers: Warren 5 and 10 mins., Cliss 49 min.

Referee: N. Jones.

— Lou Gautier

Hakoah v. Polonia 2-0

Hakoah had a much easier win than the score indicates.

The group leaders played well within themselves, never over-exerted themselves, and only did what was required to gain the points necessary to overhaul Pan Hellenic on the Group "B" ladder.

The match was all over bar the shouting after 12 minutes.

This was all that Baartz needed to notch another two goals and set the seal on Hakoah's fourth consecutive walk-over.

Both goals were the result of good team-work, especially the first when four Hakoah forwards combined magnificently for their ace goal-grabber to beat goalie Rule with a rising shot.

Young Rule, a last-minute replacement for Drewniak who didn't turn up, was a trifle inexperienced.

A more mature custodian would have probably saved Baartz's second goal, a hard shot, but not all that well angled.

Hakoah were clearly on top for the remainder of the first half, but poor finishing by both Barnett and Jones, again badly out of touch, denied them the goals they deserved.

Polonia made a spirited bid in the second half and, on a couple of occasions, came close to scoring their eagerly awaited first goal of the series.

Each time, however, they were thwarted by a superb Fuzes, now unquestionably back among the very best Sydney keepers, and in line for representative honors.

Hakoah's defence was equal to the task and easily weathered the storm.

Hakoah regained the upper hand towards the end of the match, with Baartz and Fekete splitting the Polonia defence with good constructive football.

One always had the impression Hakoah could have scored had the necessity arisen, but they were content to hold on to their early lead in an economical, not terribly spectacular style.

Polonia's attack played its best football of the Ampol Cup in the second half, but needs bolstering on the wings.

Scorers: Baartz 10 and 12 mins.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 1,642 (double-header).

Polonia, however, can take some consolation in the fact they were at least one full class above the pathetic South Coast.

Hakoah: Fuzes; Stewart, Hillsdon; Gardiner, Marnoch, Yaager; Edmunds, Fekete, Barnett, Baartz, Jones.

Polonia: Rule; Addison, Skiba; Kulak, Dzialach, Kromer; Oliver, Minol, Baker, Krawiarz, Urbaniak.

Scorers: Baartz 10 and 12 mins.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 1,642 (double-header).

— Lou Gautier

Last Sunday:

Berries swamped

With a sparkling display, Prague literally knocked out a groggy Canterbury and made quite sure of their semifinal berth.

In the late game Manly showed improved confidence and team work but even this was insufficient against the more experienced Croatia.

Once again, in perfect weather, the small attendance was a shock to Federation officials.

Prague v. Canterbury 9-1

A devastating goal riot ending in a technical knock-out — this was Prague's superb performance against a hapless, bewildered Canterbury.

The two teams entered combat knowing that the winner will have taken a mortgage on a semifinal berth.

Under such conditions you'd expect a close result and a desperate tussle, not a walk-over.

But a walk-over it was. From the very start Prague outclassed their opponents in every conceivable phase of the game.

Prague's players were fit, Canterbury's unfit; Prague possessed easy, smooth ball-control, Canterbury were clumsy and awkward; Prague worked as a team while Canterbury struggled as individuals.

Whenever a team scores so many goals, people tend to find the explanation in the weak opponents.

But on Sunday Prague would have beaten anybody in Sydney.

Their defence was watertight and solid, losing their concentration only after 9-0, almost as a gesture to their humiliated opponents.

Midfield Blanco, Scheinflug and Hoggart played an immaculate game; actually it was largely their faultless display that swung the match so heavily in their favor.

shaky and could have conceded even more goals.

They also lack any midfield player of constructive ability, a link with their attack.

The forwards were tame and unimaginative. Perhaps only Rinos had some inkling of how to approach the Prague goal but even he got discouraged and eventually sunk down to the level of his colleagues.

Canterbury's form must have shocked their officials and fans; it is doubtful if, with their present ensemble, they can achieve much in the coming season.

Prague: King; Harcombe, Blacker, Rootsey, Tracey; Blanco, Scheinflug; Gauto, Manuel, Thorne, Hoggart.

Canterbury: Demopoulos (Lindsay); Dougan, Whitehead, Raeburn; Galbraith, Romanos; Kauz (Como), Rinos, Hardy, Hood, Clarke.

Scorers: Manuel 12, 34, 47 and 61 mins., Thorne 15, 16 and 23 mins., Gauto 51 min., Scheinflug 60 min. for Prague; Rinos 65 min. for Canterbury.

Referee: A.R. Brown.

— Paul Dean

Croatia v.

Manly 2-0

Manly had enough chances to notch their first win of the series, but poor finishing again proved their undoing.

Croatia, on the other hand, with very limited opportunities, made the most of their scoring chances to record a somewhat flattering win.

The general trend of play throughout the match certainly didn't indicate that Croatia were a two-goal better team.

Canterbury were a complete failure — there just isn't any other way to describe them.

Their defence, despite its enthusiasm, is frighteningly

The few times the Manly forwards did follow through, they were at least one full class above the pathetic South Coast.

Manly: Tuinman; McGrath, Brooks; Verrills, Campbell, Jagger; P. Jones, Hughes, G. Jones, Harris (Riddings), Waller.

Scorers: Brian 10 min., Giles 34 min.

Referee: G. Naylor.

Crowd: 2,740 (double-header).

— Lou Gautier

AMPOL TABLES GROUP "A"

Prague	4	3	—	1	14	3	50
APIA	4	3	—	1	8	4	44
Croatia	4	3	—	1	6	3	42
Canterbury	4	1	1	2	8	16	25
Melita E.	4	1	—	3	3	7	15
Manly	4	—	1	3	3	10	8

GROUP "B"

Hakoah	4	4	—	9	1	57	
P. Hellenic	4	3	—	1	9	2	45
St. George	4	2	1	1	8	4	38
Yugal	4	1	2	1	4	6	26
Polonia	4	—	1	3	—	8	5
SCU	4	—	4	—	9	0	

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RESULTS TABLES

GROUP

"A"

		APIA	Croatia	Manly	Prague	Melita Eagles
APIA	●	3-2	2-0	1-2	2-0	
Canterbury	2-3	●	3-2	2-2	1-9	
Croatia	2-3	●	2-0	1-0	1-0	
Manly	0-2	2-2	0-2	●	1-3	
Prague	2-1	9-1	0-1	●	3-0	
Melita Eagles	0-2	0-1	3-1	0-3	●	

GROUP

"B"

	Hakoah	Pan Hellenic	St. George	South Coast	Yugal
Hakoah	●				

CRUCIAL GAMES WILL FIND SEMIFINALISTS

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The final round-robin matches come up this weekend with double-headers on Friday at the Showground, Saturday at Arlington Oval and on Sunday at Wentworth Park.

Two matches — APIA v. Croatia and Pan Hellenic v. St. George — will determine the second semifinalist in the two groups, Prague and Hakoah having already qualified whatever their results this weekend.

APIA and Pan Hellenic are in the box seat; all they need is a draw to reach the semis.

Croatia and Saints, should they miss out, will have the consolation of qualifying for the Australia Cup, though Yugal can still make the national competition if they beat Hakoah and St. George lose without scoring a goal. Our previews:

Prague v.

Manly

Flushed with last Sunday's tremendous victory over Canterbury, Prague served notice they will take a ton of beating in the Ampol Cup.

Friday's early match should be a mere formality because, on paper at least, Manly don't look any stronger than Canterbury.

Prague are so far ahead of their opponents in every department that it seems to be only a matter of how many goals they'll win by.

This is, of course, if they don't become complacent and continue to combine as effectively as they have throughout the series.

Prague's recipe for success is intelligent teamwork, physical fitness, clever forwards, a reliable defence and a team spirit capable of lifting mountains.

Coach Venglos has transformed Prague into the most attractive, sympathetic outfit in Sydney soccer.

Englishman Terry Thorne, for his part, has transformed Prague into a team now capable of converting their scoring chances into goals, something they lacked in the past.

Thorne's scoring ability must be contagious because Prague now have a brilliant second striker in the talented young Gary Manuel.

Prague may only be bothered by Manly's speed, the one thing which may be going for the seadiders in this match.

Until Manly unearth a Thorne or a Manuel of their own, they are bound to come in for a lot of heartburn and disappointment.

However promising their midfield work, they will never win matches unless their forwards acquire some polish in their finish.

APIA v.

Croatia

Those who indulge in wishful thinking and claim that APIA are "over the hill," could be in for a shock at the showground.

APIA have been improving steadily throughout the series and against Canterbury, a fortnight ago, showed glimpses of the form which made them Sydney's top team for the past three seasons.

Both teams have a great incentive to win, especially Croatia for whom a draw wouldn't be enough to qualify for the semifinals.

This should be a great defensive battle, with little

to choose between the two sets of defenders.

The match will undoubtedly be won or lost in attack.

In this department APIA have a big edge despite Reynolds' return to the Croatia forward-line.



B. LINCOLN (Croatia)

unfortunate accident which can happen to any team.

Their form before last Sunday was certainly good enough to see them through against Melita.

The return of coach Joe Vlastis on the bench after his illness may inspire the Eagles to better things.

They showed some improvement in their last outing, and if New Zealanders Nemet and Kovacs have settled down, they could take the opportunity to finish up in fourth place.

Melita Eagles are slight favorites to win, but we are inclined to dismiss the Berries' result against Prague and are predicting an even, hard fought match.

Hakoah v.

Yugal

Hakoah cannot take Yugal lightly if they want to retain their splendid 100 per cent record.

Yugal have surprised by turning out to be much stronger than expected, and this despite the absence of key players like Dunaj and Takac.

They haven't been beaten since their first round hammering by Pan Hellenic and, what's more, have played some attractive football, particularly in attack.

In Alagich, Yugal have one of the form players of the Ampol Cup and he is one forward who could worry Hakoah's rock-like defence, what with his speed and scoring ability.

Hakoah's defence, however, seems unlikely to concede more than one goal.

Their forwards — one is almost tempted to say their one-man forward-line because Baartz invariably scores their goals — will have Rafanelli to contend with, but if Barnett improves and he is due for a big improvement to justify his transfer, they should get the upper hand.

We don't expect a runaway win for the group leaders, but they should emerge winners with perhaps a couple of goals to spare.

Yugal still haven't given up all hope all qualifying for the Australia Cup and are certain to put up a fight.

Polonia v.

South Coast

Sunday's early match could aptly be termed the clash of the scoreless wonders, neither team having scored a goal in their four outings to date.

Their previous displays don't suggest either can break the drought at Wentworth Park, and a scoreless draw is very much on the cards.

We lean, however, towards Polonia.

Polonia, at least, have a Dzialach, a Komoder, a Minol and a Krawiarz, talented players capable of shining in any company.

South Coast, on the other hand, are totally devoid of classy players, Tolson and McGarry excepted.

McGarry, however, still has to prove himself, and may find it hard to do so isolated as he is in an inept forward-line lacking in finesse and finishing ability.

PROBABLE TEAMS

MANLY v. PRAGUE

TUINMAN	1	KING
McGRATH	2	HARCOMBE
BROOKS	3	TRACEY
VERRILLS	4	BLACKER
CAMPBELL	5	ROOTSEY
JAGGER	6	BLANCO
P. JONES	7	GAUTO
HUGHES	8	MANUEL
G. JONES	9	SCHEINFUG
RIDDING	10	THORNE
WALLER	11	HOGGART

Referee: L. RAE.

APIA v. CROATIA

TAYLOR	1	CORRY
NUTTALL	2	LINCOLN
ACKERLEY	3	SLOAN
HUGHES	4	CURRY
VAN BLERK	5	SHEPHERD
BOTTALICO	6	WRIGHT
KEDDIE	7	J. YAAGER
CAMPBELL	8	REYNOLDS
BLUE	9	BRIAN
GIACOMETTI	10	GILES
MCKINNON	11	FRAKES

Referee: N. JONES.

CANTERBURY v. MELITA EAGLES

LINDSAY	1	EATON
DOUGAN	2	FALZON
RAEBURN	3	WOODS
GALBRAITH	4	DE BRUIN
WHITEHEAD	5	CILIA
ROMANOS	6	HEWLETT
KAUZ	7	NEMET
RINOS	8	GOLDIE
HARDY	9	KOVACS
HOOD	10	DUFFY
PAXINOS	11	QUESTED

Referee: A. FARONE.

HAKOAH v. YUGAL

FUZES	1	LJUJIC
STEWART	2	NACINOVIC
HILLSDON	3	CRNICH
GARDNER	4	STOSICH
MARNOCH	5	BANICEVIC
YAAGER	6	RAFANELI
EDMUND	7	J. ALAGICH
FEKETE	8	BOBIC
BARNETT	9	HALPIN
BAARTZ	10	EDWARDS
JONES	11	PACANIN

Referee: H. PARSONS.

SOUTH COAST v. POLONIA

RAMAGE	1	DREWNIAK
CARR	2	ADDISON
RINGLAND	3	SKIBA
KELLY	4	KULAK
HARRIS	5	DZIALACH
DAVIES	6	KOMODER
BEATTIE	7	OLIVER
ALSTON	8	MINOL
McGARRY	9	BAKER
TOLSON	10	KRAWIARZ
PATERSON	11	URBANIAK

Referee: G. NAYLOR.

PAN HELLENIC v. ST. GEORGE

CLARKE	1	HAFFEY
JOHNSTON	2	SANDELL
HIGNETT	3	HILLARY
WESTWATER	4	SCHAEEFER
MALLARD	5	MORGAN
OMEROS	6	ZUCKERMAN
SMITH	7	BURTON
KARYANNIS	8	CLISS
McCULLOCH	9	WARREN
LARAMAN	10	FERNANDEZ
BLITZ	11	McCUE

Referee: A. BOSKOVIC.

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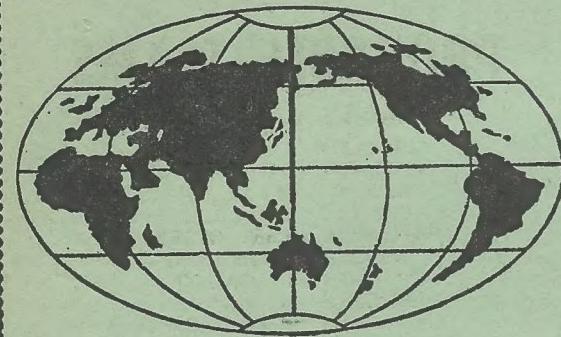
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ROUND THE WORLD

European Championship dates

These are the dates for the quarterfinals of the European Championship: France v. Yugoslavia — April 6, Marseille, April 24, Belgrade; Bulgaria v. Italy — April 7, Sofia, April 21; Naples, April 28 eventual "decider" in Berne; Hungary v. USSR — May 4, Budapest, May 11; Moscow, May 15, play-off, if necessary, in Leipzig, East Germany. The England v. Spain dates are April 3 in Madrid and May 15 in London.

Herberger's "team"

Sepp Herberger, the famous West German coach who led his country to victory in the 1954 World Cup, has selected his German team of all time, which reads: Stulfauth, Janes, Beckenbauer, Schnellinger, Haller, Szymaniak, Rahn, Szepan, Seeler, Fritz Walter, Schaefer. Only three players are from the pre-World War II era — Stulfauth, Janes and Szepan.

Gregg to USA

Former Manchester United and Eire goalie Harry Gregg is the latest recruit for American soccer. Gregg, last with Stoke City, is likely to be the coach of Cleveland Stokers.

Brazilian boss in Europe

Brazil's national team coach, Moreira, is currently visiting Europe. He came to Europe to observe the latest training methods and playing trends. He first spent 10 days in Germany watching FC Nurnberg and Borussia Dortmund train, then flew to Glasgow for the Scotland-England international. He is now in Spain where he saw Spain v. Sweden. While in Spain he is the guest of Real Madrid. He winds up his tour with four days in Portugal. Moreira said he was very impressed with the vigor of European teams. Brazil, he said, must toughen up for the 1970 World Cup.

Silent North Koreans

The North Koreans still haven't confirmed whether they would turn up in Israel in a fortnight for the pre-Olympic tournament against Israel and Burma. Australians will recall that three years ago there was no word from Pyongyang as to whether they would turn up in Phnom-Penh for the World Cup qualifying matches or not. Just as they did show up the Koreans are expected to be in Tel Aviv in a fortnight to win their berth for Mexico.

Santos after another record

Santos have not tasted defeat in their last 26 matches and are set to beat Corinthians' Brazilian record of 31 matches without defeat. Should they achieve this feat they will be awarded a special trophy by the Sao Paulo sports weekly, "Gazetta Sportiva."



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Alick Jeffrey, the former Sydney idol, has been given the sack in England. His club, Doncaster Rovers, have given him a free transfer. Jeffrey may move on to Halifax.

Dutch Cup a flop

The Dutch Cup is a total flop, enjoying no public support. The second round, a fortnight ago, only attracted 30,000, whereas a First Division competition round averages between 250,000 and 300,000 spectators. Feyenoord, whose competition average attendance, home or away, is never less than 38,000 spectators, only attracted 500 people when they played Second Division Excelsior, and Ajax at Hilversum only drew a crowd of 2,000.

Another Stein

Hibernians' 20-year-old centre-forward, Colin Stein is in line for Scottish honors. In fact, many Scottish fans are certain that Stein will lead the Scottish attack in all their World Cup elimination ties. The tall youngster has already appeared for the Scotland under-23 team.

• The recent Inter-Milan AC "derby" at San Siro Stadium raked in a record gate-takings for an Italian inter-club match. A crowd of 80,000 paid 151 million lire.

• Gento, the Real Madrid skipper, played his 42nd international match against Sweden last week. The Spanish record is held by Zamora (45 caps).

• Though six rounds remain to be played in France, Aix and Rouen are already certain to be relegated to Second Division. St. Etienne are assured of winning the title for the second consecutive season; they have a nine-point lead over Marseille and Bordeaux.

• Manchester United beat Gornik Zabrze (Poland) 2-0 in the first leg of the European Champions' Cup quarterfinals in Manchester last week.

• In the Fair Cities' Cup, Vojvodina of Yugoslavia defeated Turkey's Izmir Goetzepe 1-0 twice.

• In the South American Champions' Cup Sporting Cristal (Peru) beat Jorge Wilsterman (Bolivia) 2-0.

• Pele has returned from a private trip to West Germany. He returned home loaded with gifts, including a latest model BMW.

• Juventus Turin and Eintracht Braunschweig (West Germany) will have to play-off in the European Cup. The Italians only won the return leg 1-0 at home, after losing 2-3 in Germany.

• Famous former Hungarian international, Lorant, cannot come to terms with the Bundesliga club, MSV Duisburg, for next season. Lorant is threatening to quit unless he gets a raise of \$850 next year.

• Cardinal Angelo Dell'Acqua is a keen soccer fan. He tries to watch his favorite team, AS Roma, as often as possible and is one of the club's members of honor.

• Simoes will not leave Benfica. Last week he accepted vastly improved terms for a new three-year contract which guarantees him a minimum of \$14,000 a season.

Brown's four-year contract

Scottish team manager, Bobby Brown, has signed a four-year contract with the national team. Brown will be paid a basic salary of \$10,000 a year, plus special win bonuses. His is the longest contract ever signed by a Scottish team manager.

• Miguel Munoz, the Real Madrid coach, is almost certain to become Spain's team manager when Domingo Balmanya's contract expires on June 30. Balmanya is expected to coach Barcelona.

• Bobby Charlton played his 82nd match for England against the Scots. Twenty-three to go before he equals Billy Wright's record.

• Vojvodina's international Yugoslav goalkeeper, Pantelic, will play for the Belgian champions, Anderlecht, next season.

• Albert Sing, Munchen 1860's coach, will resign unless the club management undergoes structural changes. Sing claims he cannot work with a 16-man committee.

• Another Yugoslav has moved to Belgium: Dinamo Zagreb winger, Milorad Jovicic. He has joined Beerschot.

• Velez Sarsfield of Buenos Aires are almost certain to sign Atletico Madrid's Argentinian-born half-back, Griffa.

• Rosenborg, the Norwegian champions, fled from the Scandinavian winter and spent two weeks at Palma de Majorca in the Balearics. The Norwegians played two matches. They lost both: 0-3 against Majorca and 1-6 against Espanol Barcelona.

• If the Spanish ban on foreign players is lifted next season, Real Madrid will buy Argentinian star internationals, Artimo and Onega.

• An important innovation has been decided upon for the 1970 World Cup finals: in all matches two players can be replaced, at any time.

Off to Berlin

Munchen 1860 and their popular goalie, Yugoslav Peter Radenkovic, look like parting soon. Munchen have signed another Yugoslav, Sarajevo's Mustic and the veteran Radi — who also kept goal for Yugoslavia in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics — may transfer to the Berlin club Hertha.

Young wolf?

Catch 'em young — that's the motto in soccer. But how young? Wolverhampton obviously know of no limit: recently they made an approach to a Sheffield schoolboy centre-forward — aged 10.

Scots leading

The recent clash in Glasgow between Scotland and England (1-1) was the 85th international between them. Scotland have won 35, lost 29 while 21 have been drawn.

America's leading lights

The top foreign players in the North American Soccer League which kicks off on March 31 are Ruben Navarro and Luis Menotti (Argentina), Ze Maria and Nelio Dos Santos (Brazil), Bora Kostic and Mirko Stojanovic (Yugoslavia) Bruno Siciliano (Italy), Co Prins (Holland), Manfred Rummel (West Germany), Gernot Fraydl (Austria) and Lars Danielsson (Sweden). These players will all earn in excess of \$10,000 in 1968. The top coaches in the new league are Puskas (Vancouver), Kubala (Toronto), Andras Nagy (Washington), Ivan Toplak (Oakland), Gordon Jago (Baltimore), Rudi Gutendorf (St. Louis) and Freddy Goodwin (New York).

Mexico plans "Astrodome"

The Mexicans are planning to cover the Azteca Stadium, main venue for the 1970 World Cup finals, with a huge glass dome. The Mexican FA is also considering synthetic grass. They want to model the ground on Houston's world-famous Astrodome. FIFA's objections, however, may force the Mexicans to abandon their project despite the praise lavished on the Astrodome by Real Madrid and West Ham United when they played an exhibition match at Houston last year.

SCOREBOARD

BELGIUM: Olympic Charleroi v. Bruges 1-1; Malines v. Daring 3-1; Lierse v. Anدرlecht 2-4; Beeringen v. Beveren Waas 2-0; Beerschot v. Antwerp 3-1; FC Liege v. Standard Liege 1-1; Racing White v. Sporting Charleroi 1-0; Waregem v. St. Trond 2-1.

FRANCE: Rouen v. St. Etienne 3-0; Sochaux v. Sedan 3-0; Nice v. Nantes 5-1; Ajaccio v. Red Star 0-0; Rennes v. Strasbourg 2-1; Angers v. Metz 0-0; Monaco v. Lille 1-0; Valenciennes v. Bordeaux 2-0; Aix v. Lens 2-2; Lyon v. Marseilles 3-2.

GREECE: AEK v. Pierikos 2-0; Egaleo v. Panionios 4-3; Aris v. Olympiakos Nicosia 4-0; Iraklis v. Panseraikos 1-0; Veria v. Apollon 1-2; Olympiakos Volos v. Vyzas 1-0; Panathinaikos v. Prodefiki 4-1; Olympiakos v. Panathinaikos 1-0; Ethnikos v. PAOK 1-1.

ITALY: Bologna v. Inter Milan 2-1; Brescia v. Fiorentina 1-1; Mantova v. Vicenza 1-1; Milan AC v. Cagliari 0-1; Napoli v. Sampdoria 1-1; Roma v. Juventus 0-0; Torino v. Atalanta 4-1; Varese v. Spal 2-0.

PORTUGAL: Benfica v. Belenenses 7-0; Sporting Lisbon v. Academica 3-1; Varzim v. CUF 0-2; Barreirense v. Leixoes 0-0; Setubal v. Braga 4-0; Porto v. Sanjoanense 3-0; Guimaraes v. Tirsense 1-0.

SPAIN: Espanol v. Zaragoza 1-1; Cordoba v. Barcelona 0-1; Atletico Madrid v. Sevilla 3-3; Betis v. Real Madrid 1-2; Sabadell v. Pontevedra 1-0; Valencia v. Málaga 2-1; Elche v. Las Palmas 2-0; Bilbao v. Real Sociedad 1-1.

SWITZERLAND: Basel v. Lucerne 3-0; Grenchen v. Servette 1-0; Lausanne v. Biel 2-1; Lugano v. Grasshoppers 1-1; Sion v. Chaux-de-Fonds 2-2; Young Fellows Zurich v. Young Boys 0-0; FC Zurich v. Bellinzona 3-0.

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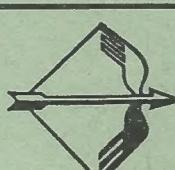
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S. A. GETS NEW COACH FOR CLASH

South Australia has appointed a new coach and named two players new to State football in its squad to train for the interstate games against Victoria in Melbourne on March 17 and in Adelaide on April 25.

Former Polonia coach Edmund Kreft has succeeded Tom Forde as SA coach.

The new squad men are Giovanni Meneghetti (Juveniles) and Cyril Heppenstall (Polonia).

Kreft came from Poland in 1961 and coached Polonia from Second Division to First Division where they won the Ampol and Federation Cups.

He was not an applicant for the Polonia coaching position which this year went to Eugenius Nowak.

The SA squad which began training last Sunday is: Jim Mill, Nilo Rusalen, Peter West, John Perin, Giovanni Meneghetti, Steve Herczeg (Juveniles); Eli Marusic, Peter Worthington, Nick Pantelis, Billy Birch, Ted De Lyster (WA Hellas); Willy Slager (Croatia); Jim Brown (Austria); Wally Fedczyszyn, John Lovell (USC Lion); Roger Romanowicz, Eugene Nowak, Cyril Heppenstall (Polonia).

The squad is well balanced but it is a mystery why two of the best strikers of the current Ampol series — Peter McKenzie (Victoria) and Marion Kolecki (Polonia) — have been overlooked.

Interstate tie

Victoria needs two-goal jump

From BOB LOW in Melbourne

If Victoria are to be in with a real chance of winning on overall aggregate in their two games with NSW, they must emerge from the first match to be played this Monday afternoon at Olympic Park with at least a 2-0 lead to give them a handy start in the return match to be played in Sydney.

I feel Victoria can do it providing the best team, irrespective of which clubs they are drawn from, is selected.

We have the players to succeed and proof of this is the fact that leading NSW club sides have chased at least half a dozen of those who are likely to play since the end of last season.

But a serious curtailment in training of our squad may have a detrimental effect on the side who have little chance now of getting together on a fixed system should they of course adopt one.

Victoria's fine record against overseas touring sides in recent years and particularly their draw last year in the first game with Manchester United bears out the right combination can be as effective as any other in Australia.

The Victorian team will be: Schroif (Slavia), Keith (Hakoah), High (Hellas), Randles (Slavia), Cook (Slavia), Micic (Hellas), Campbell (George Cross), Abonyi (Melbourne), Vojtek (Croatia), J. McKay (Croatia), McMechan (Croatia).

Almost half the Victorian team will be playing in the Ampol night soccer final on Friday night.

But NSW look to be in a far worse position with three Pan Hellenic and two St. George-Budapest players playing on Sunday only 24 hours before the game in Melbourne.

CROATIA MAY SCORE THEIR FIRST SUCCESS

— From BOB LOW —

The 1968 Ampol Cup final between Slavia and Croatia at Olympic Park this Friday night could end with a new winner being inscribed on the trophy — one which has never before adorned the plaques of any of the major cup competitions in top Victorian soccer.

I'm referring to Croatia who will be playing in their first final of any major cup competition and although the result of the game could be wide open, I'm tipping that Croatia with a better firing attack and a defence which now stands on no ceremony in clearing the ball could have sufficient edge to finish up as winners.

Croatia should also have a psychological advantage, for they have already beaten Slavia in the qualifying rounds to pip their opponents in the final for top placing in their section.

However, despite a "shocker" of a semifinal game with Hakoah, Slavia have made it two in a row in reaching the final of the night soccer.

With a tremendous cup-tie record in the past five years — only a fool would say that Croatia are certainties to win.

One cannot over-emphasise the fact that the Slavia defence is one of the best drilled in soccer here in Victoria and nothing short of their very best will

be needed from the much-boosted Croatia front line if they are to succeed in breaking through.

TEAM DETAILS:

Slavia:

1. Willem Schroif, former Slovan Bratislava keeper and ex-Czechoslovakian international.

2. Ian Livingstone, played with Hearts, Berwick Rangers, Albion Rovers, Poole Town etc.

3. Alan Reed, three years on Tottenham Hotspur's books, then played with Romford.

4. Tom Randles, made several first team appearances with Stoke City.

5. Billy Cook, five-year regular, played for Victoria and Australia many times. Ex-Kilmarnock.

6. Jock Goodwin, on Motherwell's books at same time as David Goldie, now with Melita Eagles.

7. Billy Kerr, formerly with Ayr United.

8. Mike Jurecki, played with Polonia in Melbourne and Sydney.

9. Ian Reid, a product of Ayrshire junior side Hurlford United.

10. Tad Kraus, represented Czechoslovakia in full internationals.

11. Graham Rainey, played with Partick Thistle and East Fife.

Croatia:

1. Mike Kovacek, a product of the Croatia juniors.

2. Tomislav Friganovic, came here in early 1967 after playing with NK Sibenik.

3. Frank Bot, longest serving player from Hungary.

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Coach quits after loss

Fans were treated to two thrilling Ampol Cup games last Friday night but the real sensations happened behind the scenes.

USC Lion sprung the first surprise of the evening by omitting big Ian Monan from their team to play Beograd.

Lion lost 0-2 and coach, Bill Higgins provided a sensational sequel by tendering his resignation.

Monan rejoined Lion from Melbourne Hakoah in January.

He played in four games for Lion in the current series but last week trained with Juventus.

Monan was dropped from last Friday's game "for disciplinary reasons."

Higgins, former manager-coach of Cork Celtic in the Irish League, said he had resigned from Lion because of "personal disagreement."

Beograd placed more emphasis on defence than in previous games to hold Lion to a goalless first half.

A penalty from young Mitja Marusic after 57 minutes and a great shot from Ivan Marusic three minutes later gave Beograd a deserved victory.

Beograd strengthened their suspect defence by including Roy Parsons from Elizabeth City at centre-half.

Despite some excellent approach work, WA Hellas and Polonia both failed to score until 75 minutes had elapsed.

Nick Pantelis gave Hellas the lead but Henry Manka salvaged a point for Polonia when he equalised during the final seconds of injury time.

Results:
Beograd v. USC Lion 2-0. Polonia v. WA Hellas 1-1.

— ALLAN CRISP

In brief

Eighteen months ago it looked as if South Melbourne Hellas would go the whole hog and become an all-Greek side, for at that time they had only Johnny Bedford (Australian) Ernie Ackley (Scottish) and Johnny Anderson (Scottish) as "outsiders" in their regular line-up.

However, they acquired Heinz Wenzl the former Hakoah (Sydney) and NSW keeper from JUST and he is of course Australian, sold Johnny Anderson to Hakoah which kept their quota the same, then bought David Kelly (English), from Slavia.

Now they have increased their non-Greek quota by recent signings Frank Micic (Yugoslav) from JUST and David High (English), left-back from Slavia.

Now the non-Greeks outnumber the Greeks 6-5 in the South Melbourne Hellas first team and this could be increased at any time.

For Hellas, with their vast support, are always ready to step into the transfer market for a first class player to improve their team.

Wilhelmina defeated Lions 1-0 in a curtain-raiser to the Ampol Cup semifinal. The Wilhelmina goal was scored by Stan Atkins, the former Crystal Palace player.

Alan Stenhouse of Hakoah made his first appearance of the season when he turned out against Slavia. Stenhouse, who was formerly with Motherwell and Cowdenbeath, is the longest serving regular with Hakoah, having been with the club five years.

Alexander are showing interest in two transfer listed players, Duncan McKay, the Croatia fullback or wing-half and former Glasgow Celtic and Scotland defender and Tommy McPherson of George Cross who plays left-half. B.L.

Poor semifinal

A goal by wing-half and captain Tom Randles, teed up by former Czech international Tadeus Kraus in the second half, gained Slavia a scrambling win over Hakoah to put them in the Ampol Cup final for the second year running.

other pair in the State League.

Only a handful of players escape criticism and these don't include the two keepers Willem Schroif and Mike O'Hara who were both uncertain at times and never produced their best form.

Teams:

Slavia: Schroif, Livingstone, Reed, Randles, Cook, Goodwin, Kerr, Jurecki, Reid, Kraus, Rainey.

Hakoah: O'Hara, Keith, O'Neill, Murney, Van Alphen, Baker, Fry, Stenhouse, Armstrong, Anderson, Petersen.

Result: Slavia 1 (Randles) d. Hakoah 0.

ADELAIDE TRIO'S LAST GASP BID

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

Croatia, Polonia and USC Lion will all be making a last gasp bid for an Ampol Cup semifinal berth at Hindmarsh tonight (Friday March 8).

Croatia and Polonia will be directly opposed in a cut-throat early game while Lion face a mammoth task against a secure WA Hellas.

The records of Polonia and Croatia in this series are in sharp contrast.

In their first games, Polonia were a mere shadow of the side which qualified for last year's final but their last two games brought a return to their former brilliance.

Croatia began the season in superb touch.

Their early form earned them Ampol Cup favoritism.

However, losses to Victoria and Juventus completely changed the picture.

They plunged to almost unbelievably low depths in their last game which ended in a goalless draw, with Austria.

Croatia have enjoyed a lengthy rest since and doubtless coach, Ivo Radonikovic, will have utilised the time to take stock.

Croatia will have striker Willy Slager back for this important clash but Polonia

seem certain to be without their injured captain, Rick Hamence.

On current form, Polonia must be chosen, but if Croatia can reproduce their sharp, effective football they may yet reach the semis.

Lion's semifinal prospects rest not only on their efforts against Hellas but also on

the outcome of the Croatia v. Polonia game.

A Lion loss coupled with a Polonia win would shatter Lion's hopes.

If Lion win and the first game is drawn, Lion could qualify.

Assessed on their inadequate display against Beograd, Lion's chances of success over Hellas are remote.

Adelaide program

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Croatia v. Polonia — 7.30 p.m.

WA Hellas v. USC Lion — 9.05 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

AMPOL CUP SEMIFINALS

No. 2 v. No. 4 — 7.30 p.m.

No. 1 v. No. 3 — 9.05 p.m.

All matches at Hindmarsh.

Puskas frankly admits:

CANADA AN INTERLUDE, SPAIN HIS REAL TARGET

On the eve of his departure for Canada to take up a coaching appointment with the Vancouver club, Ferenc Puskas was interviewed by FRANCE FOOTBALL's Jacques Thibert.

In Canada, the former Hungarian and Spanish international will make his coaching debut.

His views on his new career is one of the highlights of the following interview, which gives us an insight to Puskas, the player, the future coach, and the man.

Question: Why are you moving to Canada?

Answer: I have enough money to retire as from now, and never look at a soccer ball again, but I was born for soccer and will die for soccer. This may sound dramatic, but this does reflect my outlook. I'll also let you in on a secret. There is a rule in Spain which stipulates that a newly-certified coach must wait one year before he can manage a Spanish professional club. As I received a good offer from Canada, I decided to combine business with pleasure. I am looking forward to my post in Vancouver. I feel like a missionary. I hope I can advance the cause of soccer in a country where our sport is still in its infancy.

TEMPERAMENTS

Q: You will, however, return to Spain?

A: Now that I'm a fully qualified Spanish coach, my ambition is to coach a Spanish team. I will probably stay in Canada for a couple of seasons, then look around for a club in Spain. I definitely won't coach anywhere else. Spanish football has been very good to me. The least I can do, now that my playing days are over, is to put something back into the game.

Q: What is your concept of a coach?

A: In my 30 years as a player I've seen many coaches come and go, and I've come to the conclusion that a coach is only as good as the players at his disposal. Brilliant players will achieve successes irrespective of who is coaching them. Thus, in my opinion, the players make the coach, not the other way round. The coach, however, has the responsibility of getting the best out of his players and combining their individual characteristics into a smooth-running, efficient unit. This is what I hope to do.

Q: Having achieved a brilliant career both in Hungary and in Spain, how would you compare their respective footballs?

A: The Latin temperament is totally different from the Hungarian temperament. In Spain I learnt how to fight, how to discipline myself as I never had in Hungary. In Hungary, in my playing days, there was no such thing as discipline. In Hungary, soccer is played for the fun of it. It's a joyous game. In Spain, whether at training or in match-play, everything is done gravely, with great responsibility on your shoulders. I don't think Hungarians can ever submit to the rigors of a professional outlook and discipline. It's not in the national make-up.

Q: What qualities are required to make a truly great player?

A: Technique and intelligence. Tactical skill can only be acquired if the player has a degree of intelligence. Physical condition is something that can be developed by anybody, but you have to be born with the other qualities

defensive football those days. Imperfect physical condition is the only flaw preventing Hungary from regaining the position it enjoyed 15 years ago.

Q: Have you any hobbies?

A: I am mad about all sports. Since I settled in Spain I also developed a liking for bull-fighting and horse-racing. I also like to gamble. I played handball when I was young. I admire tennis player Santana, and back in Hungary I was a good friend of Iharos, the runner. Zatopek, too, was a close friend.

Q: Having watched the World Cup, what do you think of English soccer? How has it evolved since the historical 1953 England-Hungary match?

A: English footballers still retain their traditional qualities: superb physical condition, hard shooting, unlimited confidence in themselves and a professional outlook. The English were always hard to beat, but are better individually today in technique than in the past.

SPORTS-MAD

Q: And what about Hungarian soccer?

A: Hungarian soccer has always been good. Unfortunately it suffered a great blow in 1956 when some 50 very talented youths, who would be internationals today, left the country. Despite this bleeding, Hungarian soccer has lost nothing of its intelligence or technique.

Q: Does this mean the standard has slipped?

A: I am convinced of it. Fifteen years ago soccer was of a much higher standard. There was no such thing as

Q: Will you ever return to Hungary?

A: I still have hundreds of friends in Hungary. My mother and my mother-in-law still live there. Despite my Spanish nationality, I'm still a Hungarian through and through and always will be. One day I'll return to Hungary for good because it's my country.

Q: Looking back on your 30 years of soccer, have you any regrets?

A: I think I've done my duty and don't regret anything. I have a clear conscience and have the security which proves I've succeeded in my chosen profession. If I had my soccer career to live again, I wouldn't change a thing.

Iglesias is free to coach again

— By ALAN SPEERS —

APIA's search for talent in South America through coach Mike Mazzina indirectly focuses attention on the abrupt exit from football of their most notable "import," Spaniard Audato Iglesias.

Iglesias faded from the local scene last year after a short-lived term as coach of the team.

The reason, ostensibly, was his ill-health.

However, Iglesias makes no secret of the fact that he did not "get on" with one or two APIA officials.

"Even before I became ill with a liver complaint, I disagreed with certain officials over team selections. I felt that, as coach of the team, I should be solely in charge of selecting the players, and of deciding on team tactics.

"When I had the liver trouble, I spent three weeks in bed and lost two stone in weight.

"Not one APIA official came near me while I was sick, though some of the players visited me.

"When I went back to the club after recovering, the position was just the same as before, so I decided to get out," Iglesias said.

He added that, after years of experience in European soccer, he was loath to be told how to run a team, or what tactics to plan.

"I was fed-up and disgusted when I left APIA, and the only way I would come back to soccer with any club is on the condition that I be completely in charge of matters affecting the team and its players."

APIA, meanwhile, say that Iglesias is free to coach any team interested in his services.

There is, however, a transfer fee of \$1,500 on the Spaniard's head, if he wishes to play again. This is hardly likely as Iglesias is now 39.

APIA's president, Eddie Provera, said this week the \$1,500 transfer figure had been set about three years ago.

"Iglesias is free to go where he likes as a coach. He is not tied to APIA in any way in that direction," he stressed.

Iglesias, nowadays, spends most of his leisure time fishing.

"I haven't been near a soccer ground for months, and I'm not greatly concerned about it," he said.

"But, if an offer was made to me in a coaching capacity, I would be more than willing to listen, provided I have free rein to do as I wish with team selection and play on the field."

Iglesias came to Australia in 1961, first as a tourist, then later when he joined APIA.



ADAUTO IGLESIAS

Real's win was a triumph for their tiny Uruguayan coach, Hector Escarone, surprisingly rated by Iglesias as the "greatest player I've seen."

"Escarone was in his middle 50's at the time, but I saw him do things with the ball no other player I've seen could do."

"His greatest delight was in making goalkeepers look foolish."

"He would nominate, unerringly, where he was about to place a penalty kick, yet was still able to beat you nine times out of ten."

"It's hard to compare players of different eras, but what a player he must have been as a young man."

Iglesias was with Real from 1948 to 1954, when he transferred to another Spanish First Division side, Cela.

"I was with Cela until 1960, and a year later came to Australia as a tourist."

"I saw enough to convince me that, of all the countries I had played soccer in — and that included most of Europe — Australia was easily the most appealing."

"I liked the people, the scenery and the weather; three months later I was back and joined APIA."

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